

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Nonwoven card for the production of nonwoven fabric of fiber material

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0001] The invention relates to a nonwoven card according to the precharacterizing part of claim 1.

Description of Related Art

[0002] Such a nonwoven card is known from European Patent EP 0 188 177. The nonwoven card comprises a drawing-in means transferring fiber material to a licker-in as well as a transfer means transferring the fiber material from the licker-in to a main cylinder of the nonwoven card via rollers at least double. In the known state of the art, transfer rollers are used on two transfer paths only.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] It is the object of the present invention to provide a nonwoven card and a method for the production of nonwoven fabric of fiber material where the carding efficiency in the region in front of the main roller of a card can be increased and the quality of the fibrous webs produced can be improved thereby.

[0004] This object is solved, according to the invention, with the features of claims 1 and 12, respectively.

[0005] The invention advantageously provides that in a transfer means between licker-in and main cylinder, which repeatedly transfers the fiber

material, at least one of the rollers is a random roller rotating in the same direction as the main cylinder and the licker-in. The random roller permits a return feed at the licker-in so that the carding capacity of the licker-in can be used repeatedly. Furthermore, there is a distinctly higher carding efficiency in the region of the transfer points.

[0006] On at least one or on any transfer path, the transfer means may comprise only one roller between the licker-in and the main cylinder.

[0007] The only roller may be a random roller.

[0008] Alternatively, a random roller may be arranged in combination with a transfer roller on at least one transfer path, the random roller being engaged with the licker-in.

[0009] According to another alternative, the transfer means may comprise at least three rollers at least two of which are engaged with the licker-in and the main cylinder.

[0010] The at least three rollers may interengage.

[0011] The transfer means may comprise at least three rollers each of which is engaged at least with the licker-in and the main cylinder.

[0012] The neighboring rollers of the transfer means may also be in mutual engagement.

[0013] All the rollers of the transfer means may also be exclusively random rollers.

[0014] The at least one random roller may comprise carding elements in the form of a pair of worker/clearer rollers or in the form of carding plates.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0015] Hereinafter, several embodiments of the invention are explained in detail with reference to the drawings, in which:

[0016] Fig. 1 shows a first embodiment of the invention with two random rollers.

[0017] Fig. 2 shows a second embodiment with a random roller and a transfer roller.

[0018] Fig. 3 shows a variant of the embodiment according to Fig. 1.

[0019] Fig. 4 shows a variant of the embodiment of Fig. 2.

[0020] Fig. 5 shows a fifth embodiment with a transfer roller and a random roller.

[0021] Fig. 6 shows a variant according to Fig. 5 with a second random roller.

[0022] Fig. 7 shows a further variant of Fig. 5 with two transfer rollers and a random roller.

[0023] Fig. 8 shows an eighth embodiment with three transfer rollers in all.

[0024] Fig. 9 shows a ninth embodiment.

[0025] Figs. 10-12 show embodiments with three transfer rollers in mutual engagement.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0026] Fig. 1 shows a first embodiment of a nonwoven card with a drawing-in means consisting of a drawing-in roller 2 and a taker-in 4. The fiber material drawn in by the drawing-in roller 2 and the taker-in 4 is transferred to a licker-in 6. By means of a transfer means 8 consisting of several rollers, the fiber material is transferred from the licker-in 6 to a main cylinder 16 from which one or more fibrous webs can be doffed by means of a fiber doffer means 18. In the embodiments, the fiber doffer means 18 is represented by two doffer rollers 20,22 each of which takes over a fibrous web from the main cylinder 16 and then transfers the doubled or non-doubled fibrous webs to transport means via further non-illustrated doffer means.

[0027] In the embodiment of Fig. 1, the transfer means 8 consists of two random rollers 10a, 10b forming a transport path each, a return feed at the

licker-in being possible so that the carding capacity of the licker-in is used repeatedly. Furthermore, this results in a distinctly higher carding efficiency in the region of the transfer points between the licker-in 6 and the random roller 10a and 10b, respectively, as well as at the points of transfer from the random rollers 10a, 10b to the main cylinder 16.

[0028] Fig. 2 is a modification of the embodiment of Fig. 1 where the lower roller is a transfer roller 12. In contrast to the embodiment of Fig. 1 where a return feed via the random rollers 10a, 10b is effected, the transfer roller 12 completely empties the licker-in 6.

[0029] Fig. 3 shows a variant of the embodiment of Fig. 1 where a carding plate 24 is arranged on the top random roller to further increase the carding efficiency. In the embodiment of Fig. 2, it is of course possible to provide a carding plate 24 at the random roller 10 as well.

[0030] Fig. 4 shows a variant of the embodiment of Fig. 3 where a carding element 26 consisting of at least one pair of worker/clearer rollers 28,30 is provided instead of the carding plate 24.

[0031] Fig. 5 shows an embodiment where the lower transfer path is formed by a random roller 10 and the upper transfer path is formed by an intermediate doffer 14 engaged with the licker-in 6 and a transfer roller 12 engaged with the intermediate doffer 14 and the main cylinder 16.

[0032] Fig. 6 shows a variant of the embodiment according to Fig. 5 where the upper transfer path is formed by a random roller 10a engaged

with the lick-in 6 and a transfer roller 12 engaged with the random roller 10a and the main cylinder 16.

[0033] Fig. 7 shows an embodiment according to Fig. 6 where the lower transfer path is formed by a transfer roller 12b. The upper transfer path consists of a random roller 10 and a transfer roller 12a.

[0034] Fig. 8 shows an embodiment where the upper transfer path is formed by a single random roller 10 and where the lower transfer path is formed by an intermediate doffer 14 and a transfer roller 12, the intermediate doffer being in engagement with the lick-in and the transfer roller 12 and the transfer roller 12 being in engagement with the main cylinder 16.

[0035] Fig. 9 shows a variant of the embodiment of Fig. 8 where the upper transfer path is formed by a random roller 10a and the lower transfer path is provided with a second random roller 10b instead of the intermediate doffer 14.

[0036] Fig. 10 shows an embodiment of the transfer means 8 formed by three random rollers 10a, 10b and 10c in mutual engagement, two random rollers 10a and 10b being engaged with the lick-in 6 and two random rollers 10a, 10b being engaged with the main cylinder 16, respectively.

[0037] The embodiment of Fig. 11 differs from the embodiment of Fig. 10 in that one of the two rollers being in engagement with the main cylinder 16 is a transfer roller 12.

[0038] The embodiment of Fig. 12 shows a transfer means 8 formed of three random rollers 10a, 10b, 10c the axes of which are located on a single line. Compared with the upper and lower random rollers 10a, 10b, the central random roller 10c has a smaller diameter. The diameter of the central random roller 10c is selected such that the central random roller is engaged with the neighboring random rollers 10a and 10b as well as with the licker-in 6 and the main cylinder 16. By the high number of tangential contact surfaces between the random rollers 10a, 10b, 10c and the licker-in 6 and the main cylinder 16, an extremely high carding efficiency is ensured.

[0039] Although the invention has been described and illustrated with reference to specific illustrative embodiments thereof, it is not intended that the invention be limited to those illustrative embodiments. Those skilled in the art will recognize that variations and modifications can be made without departing from the true scope of the invention as defined by the claims that follow. It is therefore intended to include within the invention all such variations and modifications as fall within the scope of the appended claims and equivalents thereof.